

In the Claims

The following is an amendment to and a complete listing of the claims that replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A device ~~Device~~ for sharpening a blade of a manual cutting tool, ~~in particular~~ such as a knife, the device comprising; a support which is provided with a generally vertical cut-out, a pair of first sharpening elements pivotally mounted in spaced relationship about a first pivot point to the support on one side of the cut-out with each of the first sharpening elements being independently pivotal about the first pivot point, placed opposite each other and in a staggered arrangement in the region a second sharpening element being pivotally mounted to the support on an opposite side of the cut-out, being mounted so as to rotate about shafts which are fixed to the support and being provided with means for returning into position so as to define a sharpening zone which is variable in accordance with the position of the blade of a tool between the sharpening elements, characterised in that the each of the first and second sharpening elements comprise at least three being formed as generally identical levers (11, 11'), each lever (11, 11') being angled and provided with two arms (13, 16, 13' 16'), of which one (13, 13') is a first cutting tool engaging sharpening arm that extends

generally downwardly from one side one of the respective first and second pivot points across the cut-out and which has an upper generally concavely curved surface portion and provided with an end (14, 14') having a substantially rectilinear edge whilst the other and a second arm (16, 16') that forms a counterweight for the lever and constitutes a means (16, 16') for returning the lever (11, 11') into an initial rest position by means of gravity, the second arm of each lever being angled outwardly relative to the first arm thereof on an opposite side of the respective first and second pivot points, the second [[lever]] sharpening element being mounted in an opposite orientation to the pair of first sharpening elements so as to be able to pivot, in the region of a junction zone (15) that the first arm thereof is movable between the first arms of the first sharpening elements (13, 16; 13', 16'), and each of the levers being pivotal about a geometric axis (D₁₀) which is generally perpendicular relative to [[the]] s longitudinal vertical direction (A-A') of the cut-out [(4, 5)].

2. (currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 1,
~~characterised in that wherein the first arm of each lever (11,~~
~~11') comprises an arm (13, 14; 13', 14'), includes one edge (F)~~
~~[[of]] which has a generally semi-circular cross-section and is~~
~~suitable adapted for being in contact with a blade [(18)] of a~~
cutting tool.

3. (currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 2, characterised in wherein the edge (F) of the first arm ~~(13, 13')~~ of at least one lever ~~(11, 11')~~ is polished at least in the concavely curved portion of the first arm ~~(13, 13')~~ and is finely ribbed in ~~[[the]]~~ a manner of a sharpening steel, at least in ~~[[the]]~~ a region of the end ~~(14, 14')~~ of the same first arm.

4. (currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 1, characterised in ~~that~~ wherein the levers ~~(11, 11')~~ are ~~suitable~~ for being blocked in a position referred to as the rest position, in which ~~[[the]]~~ a spacing between the ends ~~(14, 14')~~ of the first arms of the two levers of the first sharpening elements and the end of the first arm of the lever of the second sharpening element is at a maximum, by means of two stops ~~[[(9; 9')]]~~ which are fixed to the support ~~[[(2)]]~~ and which are produced from a material which attenuates impacts and which two stops are engaged by ends of the second arms of the levers when the levers are in the rest position.

5. (currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 4, characterised in ~~that~~ wherein the support ~~[[(2)]]~~ is provided with a third stop ~~[[(7)]]~~ which is generally located ~~half-way~~ between the two stops ~~(9, 9')~~ of attenuating material and which ~~is suitable for blocking~~ blocks the levers ~~(11, 11')~~ in a position in which the spacing between the ends ~~(14, 14')~~ of the

first arms of the first sharpening elements is at a minimum relative to the end of the first arm of the second sharpening element.

6. (currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the third stop ~~[[(7)]]~~ has a length and a shape suitable for retaining at least one of the levers ~~(11, 11")~~ in a cleaning position ~~referred to as the cleaning position~~ in which it is not free ~~in terms of rotation to pivot.~~

7. (currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the third stop is provided with a protection means, ~~in particular a sleeve of flexible material.~~

8. (currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the levers ~~(11, 11')~~ are arranged so as to cover ~~[[the]]~~ a periphery of the cut-out ~~(4) which is arranged in the support~~ ~~[[(2)]]~~ when the levers ~~(11, 11")~~ are in ~~[[a]]~~ the rest position.

9. (currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each second arm ~~(16, 16')~~ which forms ~~a return means is provided with a~~ includes means ~~[[(17)]]~~ for fixing a supplementary gravity return means thereto ~~, in particular a weight.~~

10.(currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 1,
~~characterised in that wherein~~ the levers (11; 11') are retained
~~with spacing~~ spaced from the support ~~[(2)]~~ and ~~[[/or]]~~ each
other by ~~means of~~ removable discs ~~[(12)]~~.

11.(currently amended) ~~Device according to~~ The device of claim 1,
~~characterised in that wherein~~ the support ~~[(2)]~~ is provided
with a gripping means ~~(20_)~~ and/or fastening means ~~(21)~~ that
extends outwardly from a main body of the support.